

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 19 are currently pending. Claims 1-7 are allowed. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and (b) and §103(a). Applicant has amended claim 19 to more particularly claim the subject matter of the invention. In particular, claim 19 has been amended to indicate that the method is directed to "a method for predicting whether or not a post-transplant recipient is likely to reject a tissue allograft comprising detection of IgG anti-HLA DR antibodies in the serum of the post-transplant recipient against a panel of control B lymphocytes ..." Support for claim 19, as amended, can be found on page 15, lines 2-21. No new matter is added.

For reasons detailed below, the remaining rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed to issue. Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

1. Claim 19 is Not Anticipated or Rendered Obvious

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being entirely anticipated by Itescu et al. (Circulation, 98 (8), 786, 1998;"Itescu I"). The Examiner maintains that claim 19 recites "a transplant recipient" which encompasses both pre- and post- transplant recipients.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over Itescu et al., (Journal Heart Lung Transplant, 1997, 16:78; "Itescu II"). According to the Examiner, Itescu II discloses testing for the presence of IgG anti-class II and IgG anti-class I antibodies in pre-transplant sera of patients.

To expedite the allowance of claim 19, Applicants have amended the claim to specify that the method relates to "a method for predicting whether or not a post-transplant

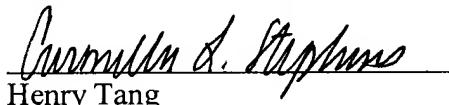
recipient is likely to reject a tissue allograft comprising detection of IgG anti-HLA DR antibodies in the serum of the post-transplant recipient against a panel of control B lymphocytes ...".

In view of the differences between the teachings of Itescu and the subject matter encompassed by claim 19 as amended, the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), or 35 U.S.C. §103, should be withdrawn and the claims allowed to issue.

CONCLUSION

Entry of the foregoing amendments and remarks into the file of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. The Applicant believes that the invention described and defined by amended claim 19 is patentable over the rejections of the Examiner. Withdrawal of all rejections and reconsideration of the amended claim is requested. An early allowance is earnestly sought.

Respectfully submitted,



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